

REMARKS

This application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The Official Action objects to claim 42 based on a typographic error. The Examiner has correctly interpreted the claim. The corresponding language of claim 42, now incorporated into claim 43, corrects such error. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are therefore respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 32, 35-41, 47, 50, 52-55, and 62 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over SUDA et al. in view of WILLIAMS et al. and further in view of XIE et al. The Official Action separately rejects claim 42 under the same combination of references, and further in view of SATO et al. The Official Action rejects claims 48 and 49 as unpatentable over the combination of references applied against claim 32, and further in view of KANEDA. The Official Action rejects claim 51 as unpatentable over the combination of references applied against claim 32, and further in view of MCINTYRE et al. The Official Action rejects claims 56-61 as being unpatentable over SUDA et al. in view of WILLIAMS et al.

The Official Action explicitly identifies claims 10-13 and 27-29 as allowed. Further, claims 43-46 are indicated as being allowable but for their dependence from a rejected base claim.


Applicant has therefore amended claim 43 into independent form by incorporating the features of claims 42 and 37, from and through which allowable claim 43 originally depended. Such amendment, taken together with the cancellation of all rejected claims, necessarily places the present application in condition for immediate allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or requires further clarification of any of the above points, the Examiner may contact the undersigned attorney so that this application may continue to be expeditiously advanced.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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